April 19, 2002

this time. (Applause)

Senator Bruning, would you please come forward. Timid, at best.
Senator Bruning.

SENATOR BRUNING: We have a tradition here in the Legislature,
that the youngest among us serves in a vitally important
position to the body. I had that honor four years ago.
Forty-five years ago Senator Chambers had that honor.
(Laughter) I apologize, it wasn't quite that long. To serve as
the Enrollment and Review Committee Chairman, Senator Erdman has
done his job ably. He's been here when he needed to be here,
because you know that when you're not here you will quickly hear
about it from the Clerk, who keeps the trains running on time.
Senator Erdman, we have a gift for you, on behalf of the members
of the Legislature, and the Clerk's staff, if you'd come
forward. On behalf of all of us, thank you for your service to
the Legislature.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thanks, Jon.

SENATOR BRUNING: You bet. (Applause)

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Members of the Legislature, family members,
and friends who are here, Senator Bruning made one mistake; it
was not 45 years ago, it was 82 years ago that I was here. But
as the longest serving member of the Legislature, it falls to me
as what I consider a great honor, to present to our Speaker a
plaque. When the session started I was allotted a certain
number of words, and that allotment has been practically
exhausted, as my colleagues have been totally exhausted. So my
remarks will be few. The President is the political embodiment
of the United States; the Governor is the political embodiment
of the state; our Speaker is the political embodiment of this
Legislature. I mean it from the bottom of what would be a heart
if I had one, when I say that he has acquitted himself very
well. He has served us with dignity. He has been honorable.
And, although on occasion, he has had to be the steel fist in
the velvet glove, he has been eminently fair. And I'm going to

14762